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**Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit
for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth
special session of the General Assembly**

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 57/163. A brief analysis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development" is followed by an assessment of the issues addressed and by recommendations to the General Assembly on follow-up actions. The report focuses on two broad themes: the coherence of policies to promote social development, and participation and partnership as objectives and means of social development.

* A/58/150.



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1. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 57/163, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. The present report is the fourth in a series of reports on this subject since the holding of the twenty-fourth special session in June 2000.

2. The first report submitted to the General Assembly (A/55/344) provided an analysis of the special session's outcome document and an overview of the new initiatives adopted. The second report (A/56/140) reviewed the follow-up activities undertaken by intergovernmental bodies. The third report (A/57/115) focused on the outcome of intergovernmental conferences and summits organized since the twenty-fourth special session and their link with activities to promote the implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the Summit.¹

3. At its forty first session, in February 2003, the Commission for Social Development, in the context of its responsibility for the follow-up to the Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, considered the theme "National and international cooperation for social development". The agreed conclusions it adopted on that topic² were to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for its endorsement at its substantive session of 2003. In order to bring to the attention of the Assembly the content of those agreed conclusions, the present report provides a brief analysis and assessment of the issues addressed therein, and contains recommendations to the Assembly on follow-up actions.

4. At the outset, it is useful to recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 57/163 reaffirmed the commitments made at the Summit establishing a new consensus to place people at the centre of development. The Assembly noted that the integration of social development objectives in the recent international conferences and summits demonstrated a continuing firm commitment to achieving the goals of the Summit. At the same time, it recognized that strengthened and effective international and regional cooperation and assistance for increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies would be required, as well as effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

5. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental forums to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments contained in the Copenhagen Declaration. It welcomed the contribution of the Commission for Social Development to the follow-up process and reaffirmed that it would continue to have the primary responsibility in that regard. Finally, the Assembly recognized the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to all major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits.

6. Policy coherence and partnership, together with country ownership, have emerged as the core organizing principles of today's development agenda, a fact that

is strongly reflected in both the resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission for Social Development and the discussions of the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November 2001. Whereas the latter two processes have largely focused on increasing the coherence of economic policies through more effective coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, the Commission for Social Development has stressed the need to recognize the interdependence between social and economic policies and to promote integrated, comprehensive and consistent public policies. Furthermore, the Commission has placed emphasis on encouraging broad participation and partnership of all stakeholders in the formulation of policies in order to maximize the opportunities for social and economic development in the context of globalization, as well as to mitigate its negative consequences.

7. It is from that perspective that the two themes — coherence of policies to promote social development, and participation and partnership as objectives and means of social development — have been selected for the present report.

II. Coherence of policies to promote social development

8. The question of the coherence of the vast array of policies that are necessary to promote social development was approached by the Commission for Social Development from four angles:

- (a) Coherence of policies in relation to the goals and objectives of social development;
- (b) Coherence and integration of social and economic policies;
- (c) Coherence between national and international cooperation for development policies;
- (d) The specific case of employment.

A. Coherence of policies in relation to the goals and objectives of social development

9. The Commission stressed that national and international efforts and cooperation should aim at "solidarity, equality within and among countries, social justice, good governance at all levels, tolerance and full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms". The Commission also indicated that cross-sectoral and integrated policies should take into account the "needs and interests of all members of society (and) their contributions to national development", and should promote the mainstreaming of a "gender perspective".

10. By mentioning that range of goals, the Commission reaffirmed the texts adopted in Copenhagen and Geneva in 1995 and 2000. Both the Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly³ linked social justice, equality of rights, notably for women and men, and good governance, including through the rule of law, and both emphasized that the well-being of all members of society should be the central objective — and the main criterion for evaluation — of

public policies. Further, by linking the "needs", "interests" and "contributions" of people, the Commission stressed the importance of participation, as it relates to empowerment, to open and efficient market economies, and to the pursuit of democracy.

11. Achieving coherence and consistency of national and international policies in the light of the above can be treated here only in very broad terms. The following points are notable:

(a) National development policies are increasingly emphasizing the positive relationship between improvements in levels of living, open and efficient market institutions offering opportunities to a maximum number of people, good governance and the promotion of human rights. That approach has gained wide acceptance, although its full implementation remains difficult;

(b) National and international policies are on considerably less firm ground when it comes to ensuring social justice, which encompasses such varied goals as the reduction of poverty, equality of rights or equality of opportunities. Notwithstanding those notions of social justice, there is evidence that inequalities in income, wealth and power, among as well as within countries, are increasing;

(c) Partly due to the growing interdependence among economies and societies, the formulation of policies, especially the macroeconomic policies of developing countries, is increasingly constrained by the exigencies exerted by the international economic environment. As a result, the long-term social development objectives and their concomitant policies are increasingly made subordinate to short-term economic policy agendas, with the risk that coherence between those policies will be tenuous at best or lost at worst.

Recommendation

12. **The General Assembly may wish to stress that, in addition to social policies, progress in the realization of long-term social goals, such as equity, social cohesion and an adequate accumulation of human capital, requires supportive and coherent short-term and long-term economic policies at the national and international levels.**

B. Coherence and integration of social and economic policies

13. The Commission for Social Development invited the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to "continue to include consideration of the integration of economic and social policies as one of the thematic areas to be addressed in future debates".

14. The fact that that question has been present in the work of the United Nations for a number of decades illustrates its centrality and difficulty. There are a number of different ways of integrating social and economic objectives. One way would be an integration by which all economic policies of national Governments and international organizations would be made subject to a few social goals, revolving around the overarching goal of promoting the greatest level of well being for the maximum number of people. Under that approach, economic policies, such as those related to production, trade and consumption of goods and services, would be set with that overall social goal in mind.

15. Another form of integration would be a situation whereby national and international public agencies would consistently and simultaneously keep in mind social and economic objectives and goals when elaborating and implementing their policies. Policies on taxation for instance, would attempt to balance several objectives, including the need to stimulate entrepreneurship and the need to finance public services, such as education and health, for access to which a lack of personal income should not be an obstacle. The Copenhagen Summit and the Geneva special session underscored that form of integration in their commitments.

16. A third form of integration is the mirror image of the first, whereby social policies are made subject to economic policies and their concomitant goals and objectives. Under those conditions, short-term economic policies take precedence over long-term, largely social, development objectives. That state of affairs is mainly derived from the importance attached to pursuing sound macroeconomic policies, which aim primarily at the rapid correction of fiscal imbalances and external deficits under conditions of low inflation, the removal of controls on the movement of capital and liberalization of the financial sector, and openness to foreign trade and foreign investment. In an increasingly globalized and interdependent world, those measures become priorities for most Governments. Underlying such policies is the assumption that social development, including the reduction of poverty, will follow economic growth and remedial targeted projects for those who do not benefit from that growth. As a consequence, issues of distribution and social development objectives are not explicitly addressed in policy formulation, nor is any significant attention paid to assessing and understanding the social consequences of economic policies.

17. To have one set of policies, in this case the economic ones, dominate the other, is not a genuine integration of social and economic policies. However, that is the prevalent situation in most countries, whether developed countries, developing countries or countries in transition. To some extent, that predominance of economic over social policies is caused by the fact that social ministries or other "line" ministries have only limited power over and influence on their counterparts in the economic and financial spheres of governments. The strongest argument, however, is that social progress cannot be achieved under unstable economic conditions. The other side of the coin, it should be stressed, is that economic stability cannot be sustained in an unstable society. Reconciling those two positions will be an essential ingredient for integrating economic and social policies.

18. Almost 10 years after the World Summit for Social Development, it has become clear that sustained and "pro-poor" economic growth is critical to poverty reduction. However, in the context of the equity-enhancing growth strategy, other fundamental aspects of development, such as employment, education, health care and social integration, including adequate and stable funding for social policies and programmes, need to be forcefully brought back into policy formulation if the causes of poverty — and not merely its symptoms — are to be successfully addressed. Political commitment is unlikely to translate into integrated policy approaches without innovative conceptual and operational frameworks that would ensure coherence and the balanced integration of economic and social policies.

Recommendation

19. The General Assembly may wish to encourage the Economic and Social Council and the different entities of the United Nations system to assess the manner in which social and economic policies are integrated. The General Assembly may also wish to request the Commission for Social Development to give particular attention to the issue of integration at future sessions.

C. Coherence between national and international cooperation for development policies

20. Since each country has primary responsibility for its economic and social development and is encouraged by the United Nations to follow its own path, international cooperation for development has a supportive role that should be consistent with national efforts. The perspective for assessing the coherence of the actions of international organizations should be a national one. The Commission for Social Development followed that logic by insisting that international cooperation has a vital role in the strengthening of the "human, institutional and technological capacity" of developing countries and some countries with economies in transition. Without building such capacity, the Commission noted, "it will be difficult to ensure that social policy concerns are integrated within the policy planning and budgeting process". In other words, developing and other countries will be unable to exert their responsibility for social development without technical assistance and other forms of aid provided through international cooperation.

21. In the same vein, the Commission noted the "increasing coordination and cooperation" at the operational level between the United Nations funds and programmes and the international financial institutions, and in that context invited those institutions to ensure that "improved social outcome is incorporated into their programme of assistance". Most importantly, given the current focus on poverty reduction, the Commission pursued that line of reasoning by indicating that poverty reduction strategies should be "nationally owned" and that when the "poverty reduction strategies papers" do exist, they should benefit from a "broad platform" and should be placed "within a wider context where all social objectives would be adequately taken into account".

22. On the question of national ownership, a declaration issued in 2002 by ministers of the heavily indebted poor countries urged the Bretton Woods institutions to move much more rapidly forward on developing methodology for ex-ante poverty and social impact analysis of all programme conditions, so that practical tools can be applied by the countries themselves to such analysis, benefiting from assistance independent of the Bretton Woods institutions, where necessary.

23. Thus, the Commission, in line with the Summit and the Geneva special session, reaffirmed that the reduction of poverty is an integral part of social development and that a coordinated international support should see that development in its various dimensions. That coherent and coordinated support implies that the advice on macroeconomic and trade policies given by international organizations to developing countries should also be compatible with social development objectives.

24. National policies for social development, however, are influenced not only by the actions of organizations whose mandate is to promote international cooperation but also by the actions of other public and private actors implementing their own strategies. Such actors include above all the developed countries, international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization, and transnational corporations. Highly visible initiatives of social movements and other organizations of civil society, such as the World Social Forum created at Porto Alegre, Brazil, a few years ago, have also become an integral part of the multi-stakeholder dialogue. They are aiming at examination and debate whether or not the actions of those other actors are facilitating or hampering social development in the world. Much effort in that respect has also been undertaken within the context of the preparations for UNCTAD XI, to be convened in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in June 2004 on the topic of enhancing coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries. Another example for promoting international dialogue on making globalization more inclusive is the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which was established under the auspices of the International Labour Organization.

25. Another critical dimension of international cooperation for the social development of developing countries is the fact that efforts, partial achievements and successes are often reversed by violent upheavals and conflicts. The current high number and recurrence of such conflicts is a powerful reminder that conflict prevention is an integral part of the quest for social progress, development and the reduction of poverty. In that context, the Commission for Social Development welcomed the commitment of African countries, as embodied in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to peace and conflict resolution as an essential foundation for sustainable development in the region.

26. It is increasingly obvious that meeting the objectives of overall development and poverty eradication depends on the creation of an enabling environment and the adoption of effective measures, including conflict prevention, the availability of sufficient and stable financial resources, and greater access of the developing countries to the markets of developed countries in order to support developing countries' efforts to achieve sustained economic growth, social and sustainable development and the strengthening of their democratic systems.

27. It also seems that globalization has exposed the limitations of the existing framework for international cooperation and has significantly increased awareness of the need for international cooperation for social development. Globalization has revealed a mismatch between current systems and institutions of national regulation and accountability and the global nature of economic and financial operations, therein creating a new impetus for international cooperation and dialogue. In response to that challenge, an institutional framework needs to be developed that not only elaborates economic and financial rules but also includes and allows for the treatment of specific social issues.

Recommendation

28. The General Assembly may wish to stress that, given the growing and multifaceted interdependence of all regions and countries, coherent and strengthened international cooperation is the indispensable complement to the

efforts of developing countries to promote their social development and reduce poverty. Such international cooperation should include the creation of a culture of conflict prevention and peace as well as of a favourable external economic environment.

D. The specific case of employment

29. In its agreed conclusions on national and international cooperation for social development, the Commission made the following references to employment:

(a) It called for "adequate attention to productive and sustainable employment" and for "employment strategies" to be developed "in harmony with economic growth strategies and structural reforms"; it stressed the need for "labour and employment policies" that will support both growth with employment and employment that supports social development goals;

(b) It saw the "involvement of social partners" as an important element in ensuring the success of employment strategies; it stated that sustainable development objectives should aim at "quality employment" and the defence of "workers rights and interests"; it called for respect for United Nations and International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions;

(c) The Commission also encouraged the strengthening of cooperation among countries "to address labour market information and skills standard certification as well as transnational issues on labour migration, with a view to protecting the rights and dignity of migrant workers".

30. The recognition that employment issues have continued to remain peripheral to the overall development policy agenda despite the centrality of employment in the fight against poverty and social exclusion has led to two international initiatives: the ILO global employment agenda and the Secretary General's youth employment network.

31. The global employment agenda aims at elaborating a comprehensive employment framework that will allow for policy coherence and coordination. Explicitly addressing the objective of employment generation is viewed as critical to achieving both growth with employment and employment with social equity, while avoiding trade-offs between employment growth and inflationary pressure or between productivity and slower employment creation.

32. The youth employment network initiative places great emphasis on the contribution of employment policies to social cohesion and inclusion of youth and the need to promote active policies that address the non-economic dimension of employment and work. Priorities under that initiative are to be given to removing barriers which lead to practices that discriminate against youth employment in general, the unemployment of young women or youth entrepreneurship.

Recommendation

33. The General Assembly may wish to reaffirm that employment creation and progress in working conditions, which are indispensable elements of poverty reduction, social integration and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of

national policies. The Assembly may also wish to encourage current initiatives of the United Nations system to foster youth employment and the elaboration of comprehensive employment strategies.

III. Participation and partnership as objectives and means of social development

34. In recent years, participation and partnership have emerged as objectives and instruments of social development. In the wake of the World Summit for Social Development, the increasingly global character of social development requires the active and responsible involvement of all, including those currently deprived of political voice and power. In that regard, the following three main elements can be found in the Commission's agreed conclusions on national and international cooperation:

- (a) Participation of developing countries in international affairs;
- (b) Partnership among all actors of the development process: the private sector and civil society;
- (c) NEPAD as an example of partnerships.

A. Participation of developing countries in international affairs

35. In view of the "considerable obstacles" still faced by developing countries to "further integration and full participation in the global economy", the Commission for Social Development reiterated the need for "immediate action in order to overcome those obstacles". The Commission stressed that "the social impact and dimension of globalization deserve further attention". Such integration and full participation depend to a considerable extent on the ability of developing countries to participate and influence international economic decision-making.

36. The Commission also stressed that "in an increasingly globalizing world, renewed and effective partnerships between developed countries and developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, are required to achieve the internationally agreed social development objectives and commitments, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration". This involves, *inter alia*, a substantial increase in official development assistance (ODA) by developed countries that have not met the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. At the same time, the Commission stated that "recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make ODA more effective".

37. The Commission reiterated the call of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session concerning "the necessity to ensure the effective involvement of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process", which could be achieved through, for example, "greater participation in international economic forums, thereby ensuring the transparency and accountability of international financial institutions with respect to according a central position for social development in their policies and programmes".

38. A communiqué dated 28 September 2002 of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, in

particular its paragraph 10, refers to the need to identify pragmatic and innovative ways to enhance further the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international decision-making and norm-setting, and encourages all relevant international financial institutions to take concrete measures to that end.

19. The need for greater involvement of the Governments of developing countries in the various international institutions having an influence on global decisions and trends has been on the international agenda for some time and has been stressed in recent years, notably at the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey. At issue is not only the level of representation of developing countries in the committees or boards of organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the Bank for International Settlements, but the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in their daily operations and in the decisions, including reforms.

Recommendation

40. **The General Assembly may wish to stress that the social development of developing countries and their capacity to pursue integrated socio-economic policies require their effective involvement and participation in international decision-making and norm-setting, including in international financial forums, and to call upon all international institutions to take concrete measures to that end.**

B. Partnership among all actors of the development process: the private sector and civil society

41. The Commission recognized that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, both within countries and at the international level. At the national level, that would mean partnerships among Governments, civil society and the private sector. At the international level, the Commission encouraged "voluntary partnerships for social development" and decided that that issue should be further discussed at the intergovernmental level.

42. Regarding the private sector, the Commission underlined that sector's responsibility "at the national and international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations". Those responsibilities relate to "not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities". Companies also have responsibilities towards their workers. In that context, the Commission "emphasized the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders with regard to corporate responsibility and accountability".

43. The past decade has witnessed an increasing awareness that the contribution of the private sector to development could be enhanced in most countries both by complementing more efficiently and effectively some activities undertaken by the State and by increasing the extent of the private sector's contribution in other areas. Furthermore, it is increasingly recognized that both large and small companies in the

private sector have a responsibility to contribute to equitable and sustainable communities and societies.

44. Against this background, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁴ calls for a dialogue between enterprises and the communities in which they operate, and encourages industry to improve social and environmental performance through voluntary initiatives, including codes of conduct, certification and public reporting on environmental and social issues.

45. While there is no universally applicable approach to determining the respective roles and responsibilities of the Government and the private sector in the quest for accelerated development, it is the duty of the Governments to ensure that, for their part, the private sector, both domestic and international, contributes as much and as effectively as possible to national development goals. In so doing, Governments should adopt measures that promote corporate social responsibility and accountability, including through the full development and effective implementation of intergovernmental agreements and measures and appropriate national regulations, and that support continuous improvements in corporate practices in all countries.

46. When introducing elements of market mechanisms in such areas as health, education and training, a number of precautions are necessary, especially with respect to attaining the objectives of equal access, cost containment and quality of services. Since the aims of the public and private sectors are usually quite different, the public sector needs to analyse the costs and benefits of such partnerships in the wider context of public interest, public social goals and the integrity of public policy and the public sector. The advantages and disadvantages of engaging in partnerships with the private sector, including the safeguards needed to ensure public sector integrity, should be compared to other mechanisms, including contracting, purchasing and public sector provision.

47. The civil society is a growing force, nationally and globally. There is an emergence of an international civil society, representing a network of actors across national boundaries. Those actors are participating in the discussion of global issues, not only from the perspective of national interest but also from the perspective of concern about the international ramifications of specific problems. Through criticism and grass-roots proposals, civil society stimulates the various international organizations, Governments and global corporations to take action on such issues as better social standards, labour conditions, a healthier natural environment and human rights for all. As to the responsibility of the organizations of civil society, the accountability, transparency and integrity that are demanded from Governments and corporations in the context of effective partnerships for social development are also required of NGOs.

48. From the above, it is apparent that there is a need for social dialogue at all levels. Civil society organizations, including trade unions, should establish a dialogue with Governments, corporations and international organizations, and should also debate among themselves. It is only through cooperation and partnerships among those organizations that all voices in society are heard, and in particular that cooperation between labour and business is maintained.

Recommendation

49. The General Assembly may wish to stress that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses. The Assembly may also wish to emphasize in that regard that the notions of responsibility and accountability are applicable to all those actors and to call upon the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system to incorporate those notions in their respective programmes of work. The Assembly may further wish to encourage the Commission for Social Development to consider the possibility of including the topic of building international voluntary partnerships for social development in the agenda of future sessions.

C. New Partnership for Africa's Development as an example of partnerships

50. At the outset, it should be recalled that in both the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, commitment 7 has been devoted to the acceleration of the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

51. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) offers a promising framework for addressing the social dimensions of African development within an international cooperation context. Through NEPAD, African Government leaders have agreed to take joint responsibility for, inter alia, restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability; strengthening mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution; promoting and protecting democracy and human rights; and taking action to strengthen legal frameworks and working to achieve internationally agreed development goals.

52. In considering its priority theme on national and international cooperation for social development, the Commission welcomed "the prominence given to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in the report of the Secretary-General as an example of a partnership among Governments", and "invited him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports to the Commission on its priority themes". It also recognized that the objectives and action plans enunciated in the Partnership are consistent with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

53. In the Commission's draft resolution on the implementation of the social objectives of NEPAD, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, "the New Partnership objectives of eradicating poverty in Africa and placing African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process", were emphasized. In the same draft resolution, "the international community and the United Nations system" were urged "to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership", and "the international financial institutions" were

invited "to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities" of NEPAD.⁵

54. NEPAD represents a new contract between developed and developing countries, with the latter committing themselves to the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The success of such new initiatives would include peace and security; a revision of the international development cooperation in support of Africa's accelerated development; political will to honour commitments by both African countries and donor countries; and sustained advocacy for African development.

Recommendation

55. The General Assembly may wish to reaffirm the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa. The Assembly may also wish to request the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence to the social dimensions of NEPAD in its work.

IV. Concluding remarks

56. The recommendations made by the Commission for Social Development on national and international cooperation for social development, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/163, emphasize the importance of coherent and participatory policies to further social development goals. Policy coherence requires not only the still elusive integration of social and economic policies but also a better understanding of the direct importance of the promotion of a culture of conflict prevention and peace for social development. Participation and partnership are both means and objectives of social development. They involve an increasing number of actors whose responsibility and accountability are increasingly being demanded.

57. The goal of the present report, as stated in paragraph 3 above, was to bring to the attention of the Assembly the substantive content of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission for Social Development on its priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development". It should be recalled that, in its resolution 57/163, the Assembly recognized that the Commission had the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly, and welcomed its contribution in that regard. Therefore, an alternative would be for the Commission to formulate its views on that follow-up in resolutions for consideration by the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

¹ See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 6 (E/2003/26)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V.

³ See General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

⁴ See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution II, annex.

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 6 (E/2003/26)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.
